

EDITORIALS

A Struggle for Wages

A titanic struggle looms over the current movement for a guaranteed annual wage in the automobile industry and the outcome may have a bearing on the future of the nation's economy.

All political attempts to make us think we are in a depression have thus far failed and the nation approaches the second period of what may well be the most solidly prosperous year in history. Less than a year ago, Mr. Ruether and some members of congress were demanding that the administration prepare for widespread unemployment. They demanded great public works projects to take up the slack that would surely come in the "cold-hard months just ahead." There is some unemployment; but, by and large, any capable, reasonably equipped individual can find a job.

The guaranteed annual wage has always been an intriguing appeal to the average workman, particularly if he is employed in the automobile industry where the very nature of the business is such that seasonal shutdowns, usually between models, is a necessity. In years past this has worked a hardship on some automobile workers, but, it will take smarter men than Ruether and some of our leading economists to find out a fair solution to the problem.

Who can guarantee the annual sales and income of any manufacturing company? Or of any newspaper, retail store, or any business or professional man? Sales, profits, and income rest in the hands of customers and consumers.

Workers cannot help but be harmed by a breakdown of our prevailing economic system. They should be made aware of the perils of anything so nebulous and, conceivably, meaningless as a "guaranteed annual wage."

OUT OF THE PAST

By JOHN BECK

THIRTY YEARS AGO

May, 1925
The School Board authorized an appropriation of \$84,000 for construction of an addition to Torrance Elementary School. . . . Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital was opened, and 3000 people were present to view the new institution. . . . Protests were registered against a proposal for installation of a lighting system in Torrance. Property owners expressed the opinion that "costs would be less burdensome at a later date." . . . Interest was stirred by a Los Angeles newspaper editorial urging annexation to Los Angeles of Shoestring Strip.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

May, 1935
City Engineer Frank Leonard announced plans to be filed for improvement of Vista Highlands with paving, curbs, sidewalks and sewers. . . . Boy Scouts from every city in the district came to Torrance for a two-day jamboree. . . . Population of Torrance was set at 2270. . . . Six persons were arrested and charged with petty theft as alleged relief roll chisellers. . . . Torrance Kiwanis Club was addressed at a meeting by 88-year-old Dr. Francis D. Blakeslee, pastor of Los Angeles, who spoke on Abraham Lincoln, whom he had known during the lifetime of the president. . . . Colery shipping was reported "very brisk" from Torrance for the month. . . . Recall proceedings against Mayor Scott R. Ludlow and Councilmen Hitch-

cock, Stanger, and Tolson, were dropped. The recall group, headed by Albert Isen, expressed satisfaction with reduced water rates, a city council report on water system expenditures, and added that the issues raised could be settled at next year's municipal election.

TEN YEARS AGO

May, 1945
Torrance's seventh war loan drive quota was set at \$870,000. It was announced by Hillman R. Lee, chairman of the war finance committee. . . . Light and power in a large part of the city was stopped for 31 minutes because of trouble at a power station. The stoppage was thought to be caused by a mischievous juvenile. . . . Rabid dogs were about town, according to Police Chief John Stroh, and owners of dogs were warned that those not observing quarantine and leash laws were subject to immediate arrest. . . . A group of public-spirited citizens, with Reed Parkin, Chamber of Commerce president, as chairman, set up a committee to examine plans for return of service men to community life. . . . From 1 a.m. Sunday to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wateria was supplied with water by Torrance Fire Department through a 1400-foot hose, after a pump at Quandt pumping station broke down. . . . General Petroleum Corp. announced start of a \$3,000,000 expansion project at the Torrance refinery, for additional supplies of 100-octane gasoline to fight the Japanese.

A Stone For Beria



AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

Outside of our professional economists, few of us can comprehend a billion dollars. How much is a billion dollars? . . . Well, look at it this way. . . . if Julius Caesar were still living today, trying to spend one billion dollars at the rate of \$1,000 a day from 44 B.C., he would have to go to the year 2697 to do it. . . . for in 1955 Julius would still have \$271,000,000 to spend.

Let's put it another way. . . . a billion dollars in \$10 bills would stretch along the Lincoln highway from Los Angeles to New York more than three times. . . . or a billion in \$1 bills would make a wall of currency 14 feet high from the White house to Capitol hill on both sides of Pennsylvania avenue. . . . or a billion dollars in \$100 bills piled one on top of the other would make three stacks more than double the height of the Washington monument, or the Empire State building in New York. Relax now for the hard facts of our foreign aid.

I meet well-meaning Americans who say that we do not try to understand other nations, hence the world crisis. In my opinion the opposite is true. . . . that other nations do not understand, or seem to appreciate the generosity of the United States and its people. Money is a form of criteria for one's generosity. . . . and the American people certainly have gone all out with the fantastic sum of over

\$50,000,000,000 to provide it, since the end of World War 2 alone, President Eisenhower's recent report for Asia will add another \$3 billion to this total.

In making the rounds of the Department of Commerce here in Washington, I learned that we funneled about \$48,000,000,000 in aids and credits abroad between July 1945 and January 1955. This is in addition to the \$50,000,000,000 we gave our allies during World War 2.

Out of this \$50 billion foreign aid since World War 2 about \$35 billion represents outright gifts. . . . and about \$15 billion in loans which are recoverable (we hope). Of the \$35 billion in grants about \$28 billion went for economic and technical assistance, military and civilian relief. Over \$1 billion of this had gone to countries now behind the Iron curtain, when the Russians blocked any further aid under the Marshall plan to their satellites. That was the best break we got from the Russians since recognition in 1933. It saved us untold billions which could have been siphoned to Moscow.

Out of this \$50 billion foreign aid, I learned that Europe got some \$35 billion and the Far East the balance of the \$15 billion before, during and since the Korean war. The major beneficiaries of this foreign aid were: Britain about \$7,000,000,000; France

some \$5,000,000,000; West Germany about \$4,000,000,000; Italy about \$3,000,000,000; Greece \$1,300,000,000; Holland \$1,100,000,000; Yugoslavia \$275,000,000. In the Far East, Korea received \$5,000,000,000; Japan \$3,000,000,000, not including special grants during the Korean war to both Korea and Japan. Contrary to popular opinion, Formosa received less than \$500,000,000, most of it in military assistance. Formosa has been self-sufficient since 1953, receiving mostly military aid from the U.S. at present.

At the present rate of spending the United States is going about \$86,000,000 in the red a week. . . . in spite of the fact that we are collecting more taxes than ever before in history in a period of unprecedented prosperity. In spite of the figure-juggling in Washington we are inviting economic disaster unless this reckless spending is stopped. . . . and people are given real relief in taxes.

Here are the facts: The two most prosperous years in U.S. history were 1953 and 1954. . . . and economists predict that 1955 will be even greater. Yet in 1953 we went over \$9 billion in the red. . . . and in 1954 over \$3 billion. The estimate in Washington today is that we will go into red ink about \$5 billion in 1955. These repeated deficits have forced congress to approve a \$6 billion increase in the \$275

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

"Marriage is an institution." The bards say time and again. (It's run entirely by women, The financing's done by men).

Which is about in line with the definition of marriage recently published by the Jackson (Ga.) Progress. According to a sage writing in that journal, marriage is a constant test to determine if the husband is faster on the deposit than the wife is on the draw.

The Kiwanis Club bulletin for this week quotes one of its members as saying, "It isn't surprising our present day girls are live wires—they carry practically no insulation."

Father's Day means a lot of things to a lot of families, but the word already has been passed at my house on what it is going to mean this year. It means it's going to be my day for breakfast in bed (I'm going to fix it and take it to mama), my day to mow the lawn, my day for this, and my day for that. The list is verry long.

THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

Assistance Lauded

Editor, Torrance Herald:

The Torrance Terrace Garden Club would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the generous publicity your paper has given our recent Hobby, Art and Flower Show held in the Civic Auditorium, May 6th, 7th and 8th. Your wonderful cooperation made it possible to find many interested people in the community, consequently receiving their support and enthusiasm.

We also wish to thank the Torrance Recreation Commission, Torrance Police Department which provided the Torrance Auxiliary Police (TAPS) who guarded the exhibits, the Y-Teens, who donated their time to help with street publicity, the Nurseries and Florists who besides helping financially, also entered exhibits, Paul's Chevrolet who extended the courtesy of announcing our show on station KBIG with their news broadcast, clubs and individuals who partrigade goes to each of these tiepated in exhibiting. Our groups for their support in helping make our show a great success.

With the enthusiasm and interest already created, we are looking forward to another successful year with support from our growing community.

TORRANCE TERRACE GARDEN CLUB
Mrs. J. Park Montague
Publicity Chairman

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A Note of Thanks

Editor, Torrance Herald:

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks for your cooperation all during the year in printing our publicity in your paper.

This fine spirit of cooperation has been very greatly appreciated by our PTA unit.

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